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the centre of one of the faces was also recorded. These bodies were found in *Alcyonella fungosa*, and in *Lophopus crystallina*.

The Secretary exhibited several donations of antiquities.

FEBRUARY 11TH, 1850.

The REV. HUMPHREY LLOYD, D. D., PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

SIR ROBERT GORE BOOTH, Bart., was elected a Member of the Academy.

The Secretary read the following Report of the Council:

"THE attention of your Council has been recently directed to the important object of organizing, under the auspices of the Academy, a system of meteorological observations in Ireland, similar to those now in operation in different parts of Germany; and it becomes their duty now to communicate to the Academy the views by which they have been guided respecting it, and the steps which they have taken in consequence.

"In that department of meteorology which relates to the geographical distribution of temperature, conclusions of great scientific interest, and of much practical value, have been recently drawn from the study of the varying position of the isothermal lines *from month to month.* Every country in which science is cultivated will be hereafter expected to contribute its own share to the full elucidation of this subject.

"In what may be called the *dynamics* of meteorology, on the other hand, there are numerous,—and among them, perhaps, some of the most interesting problems of the science,—which can be solved only by means of observations made over a large area, and upon a common plan. Of these it is sufficient to refer to the various questions relating to the course and direction of the aerial currents, and the non-periodic variations of temperature and pressure connected with them.

" For the data required in the solution of these, and such problems,—so far as they relate to Ireland,—the Council believe that the meteorologists of Europe have a right to look to the Royal Irish Academy.

" Your Council are moreover of opinion, that there are special grounds for an undertaking, such as that referred to, in Ireland. While, on the one hand, the position of the island in the north-western extremity of Europe, its insular climate, the peculiar relation of its surface to the curves which define the limits of the greater precipitations of vapour, and the probable influence of the gulf-stream, concur to give importance and interest to its climatology; on the other, the means for the investigation probably exist to as great an extent in it as in any other country of Europe, and need only to be organized for the purpose.

" In reference to this latter point it is important to observe, that the system of observation required (although necessarily demanding punctuality and attention) is not a complex one. It is not necessary that the regular observations should, in any case, be more frequent than *three* daily; and it is probable that, with the knowledge we already possess respecting the diurnal variations of the meteorological elements, a yet more limited plan of observation will suffice at most of the stations.

" Additional information of great scientific value may be obtained, without much additional labour, by combining tidal observations, at selected stations round the coast, with the meteorological observations above referred to. The phenomena of the tides on the coasts of Ireland present many points of striking interest, which have been brought to light by Mr. Airy, in his able discussion of the tidal observations made in 1842, in connexion with the Ordnance Survey of Ireland. Of these observations Mr. Airy observes, that ' extent of time alone appears wanting to render them the most important series of tide observations that has ever been made.' The duty of endeavouring to supply this want naturally devolves upon the Academy.

" In furtherance of the views expressed in this Report, your Council have agreed to the following resolutions :

" 1. That an application be made to the Board of Trinity College, to the Earl of Rosse, to the Rev. Dr. Robinson, to Mr. Cooper, to the Presidents of the Queen's Colleges at Cork, Belfast, and Galway, and to the Chief Commissioner of the Board of Works, requesting their co-operation.

" 2. That an application be made to the Lords of the Treasury, to request that they will direct the meteorological and tidal observations, referred to in the Report of the Committee of Science of the 7th January, to be made by the officers of the coast guard, at not less than fifteen stations round the coast of Ireland, for at least one year, the Academy undertaking to furnish the instruments and instructions for their use.

" 3. That the Committee of Science be authorized to procure estimates for the cost of the instruments required, to be laid before the Council at a future meeting."

On the recommendation of the Council it was

RESOLVED,—That the sum of £150 be placed at the disposal of the Council for the purposes stated in the Report.

The Secretary read a note from R. J. Graves, Esq., M. D., announcing the invention of a method by which he proposed to prevent the waste of water by evaporation from tanks and reservoirs, in hot climates.

Mr. George Yeates presented the results of his Meteorological Observations for the year 1849.—(See Appendix, No. VI.)

Mr. M. Donovan read a biographical memoir of the late Richard Kirwan, Esq., LL. D., formerly President of the Academy.